

1 The Eastman Law Firm
12288 S Mullen Rd
2 Olathe, KS 66062

3 Attorneys for Plaintiff,
SCOTT WHEELER

4 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
5 **WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**
6 **SPRINGFIELD DIVISION**

7 SCOTT WHEELER,) **Case No.**
8 Plaintiffs,) **PLAINTIFF’S COMPLAINT FOR**
9 v.) **DAMAGES**
10 FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA,) **(Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)**
11 Defendant.)
12)

13 **COMPLAINT**

14
15 SCOTT WHEELER (“Plaintiff”), by and through his attorneys, alleges the following
16 against FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, (“Defendant”):

- 17 1. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself individually seeking damages and any
18 other available legal or equitable remedies resulting from the illegal actions of Defendant,
19 in negligently, knowingly, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff on Plaintiff’s cellular
20 telephone in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (hereinafter “TCPA”),
21 *47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.*

22 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 23
24 2. Defendant conducts business in the state of Missouri, and therefore, personal jurisdiction
25 is established. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b)(2).

1 3. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3). See,
2 *Mims v. Arrow Financial Services, LLC*, 132 S.Ct. 740 (2012), holding that federal and
3 state courts have concurrent jurisdiction over private suits arising under the TCPA.

4 4. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri
5 pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1391(b) because Plaintiff resides within this District and a
6 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the herein claims occurred, or a
7 substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated within this District.
8 The Plaintiff designates Springfield, MO as the trial venue.

9 **PARTIES**

10 5. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Christian County, in the city of Clever, Missouri
11 and is otherwise *sui juris*.

12 6. Defendant is a Nebraska corporation doing business in the State of Missouri.

13 7. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendant has acted through its agents, employees,
14 officers, members, directors, heir, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties,
15 subrogees, representatives and insurers.
16

17 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

18 8. Defendant placed collection calls to Plaintiff seeking and attempting to collect on alleged
19 debts owed by Plaintiff.

20 9. Defendant placed collection calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone at phone number (417)
21 766-05XX.

22 10. Defendant places collection calls to Plaintiff from phone numbers including, but not
23 limited to, (800) 537-3302, (800) 537-3302, and (800) 424-6920.
24
25

- 1 11. Per its prior business practices, Defendant's calls were placed with an automated telephone
2 dialing system ("auto-dialer").
- 3 12. Defendant used an "automatic telephone dialing system", as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)
4 (1) to place its telephone calls to Plaintiff seeking to collect a consumer debt allegedly
5 owed by Plaintiff, SCOTT WHEELER.
- 6 13. Defendant's calls constituted calls that were not for emergency purposes as defined by 47
7 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).
- 8 14. Defendant's calls were placed to a telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone
9 service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §
10 227(b)(1).
- 11 15. Defendant never received Plaintiff "prior express consent" to receive calls using an
12 automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice on his cellular
13 telephone pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).
- 14 16. On or about March 6, 2017, at or around 2:00 p.m. Central Standard Time, Plaintiff called
15 into Defendant's company at phone number (800) 537-3302. Plaintiff spoke with
16 Defendant's female representative "Diane" and requested that Defendant cease calling
17 Plaintiff's cellular phone.
- 18 17. During the conversation, Plaintiff gave Defendant both his name and cell phone number
19 to assist Defendant in accessing his account before asking Defendant to stop calling his
20 cell phone.
- 21 18. Plaintiff revoked any consent, explicit, implied, or otherwise, to call his cellular telephone
22 and/or to receive Defendant's calls using an automatic telephone dialing system in his
23 conversation with Defendant's representative on March 6, 2017.
24
25

1 19. Despite Plaintiff's request to cease, Defendant continued to place collection calls to
2 Plaintiff.

3 20. Despite Plaintiff's request that Defendant cease placing automated collection calls,
4 Defendant placed at least eighty (80) automated calls to Plaintiff's cell phone after March
5 6, 2017.

6
7 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
8 **NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**
9 **47 U.S.C. § 227**

10 21. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set
11 forth above at Paragraphs 1-20.

12 22. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple
13 negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the
14 above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.

15 23. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., Plaintiff is
16 entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation,
17 pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(B).

18 24. Plaintiff is also entitled to seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

19
20 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
21 **KNOWING AND/OR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER**
22 **PROTECTION ACT**
23 **47 U.S.C. § 227 et. seq.**

24 25. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set
25 forth above at Paragraphs 1-20.

1 26. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing
2 and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of
3 the above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.

4 27. As a result of Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq.,
5 Plaintiff is entitled an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every
6 violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

7 28. Plaintiff is also entitled to seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

8
9 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

10 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, SCOTT WHEELER, respectfully requests judgment be entered
11 against Defendant, FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, for the following:

12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

13 29. For statutory damages of \$500.00 multiplied by the number of TCPA violations alleged
14 herein (80), \$40,000.00;

15 30. Actual damages and compensatory damages according to proof at time of trial;

16 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 31. For statutory damages \$1,500.00 multiplied by the number of TCPA violations alleged
18 herein (80), \$120,000.00;

19 32. Actual damages and compensatory damages according to proof at time of trial;

20 **ON ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

21 33. Actual damages and compensatory damages according to proof at time of trial;

22 34. Costs and reasonable attorneys' fees;

23 35. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

24 **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

25 36. Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

1 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

2 DATED: April 7, 2018

3 *Gary T. Eastman*

4 Gary T. Eastman, MO Bar #50767

5 The Eastman Law Firm

6 12288 S. Mullen Rd.

7 Olathe, KS 66062

8 (913) 908-9113 Telephone

9 (866) 594-2771 Facsimile